

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00
OCL-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-08 COME-00 FS-01 EUR-12
MMO-01 /090 W

-----241519Z 101605 /43

O 241357Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3644

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

BUMED IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

CNO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMMU ASMARA IMMEDIATE

COMNAVTELCOM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 2478

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, US

SUBJ: DEMARCHE TO EPMG ON CLOSING OF U.S. INSTALLATIONS

REF: A. STATE 092322 B. STATE 092279

SUMMARY: CHARGE FINALLY ABLE TO MEET WITH MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AMERICAN AFFAIRS OFFICER, BERHANE DERESSE,
11:30 LOCAL, IN ABSENCE OF ANY OTHER HIGH RANKING MOFA
OFFICIAL. CHARGE FORMALLY REQUESTED EXTENSION OF FOUR-DAY
TIME PERIOD AND RECEIVED ASSURANCE EPMG HAD ADOPTED BROAD
POLICY OF AN ORDERLY WITHDRAWAL WITH NO INCIDENTS, HARRASS-
MENT OF U.S. CITIZENS, OR UNDUE PRESSURE TO MEET FOUR-DAY

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DEADLINE. BERHANE ASSURED CHARGE THAT QUOTE TIME WOULD
NOT BE PROBLEM UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES UNQUOTE AND THAT HE
HAD THIS FROM HIGH LEVEL WITHIN EPMG. CHARGE REQUESTED
IMMEDIATE CLEARANCE FOR POSSIBLE MAC FLIGHTS, ON BASIS
THAT POSSIBLY AS MANY AS TWO PER DAY WOULD BE NEEDED
OVER NEXT THREE DAYS TO MEET DEADLINE. BERHANE TOLD CHARGE
HE WOULD TRY TO ARRANGE THIS BUT THOUGHT THAT

MINISTER OF DEFENSE AYALEW BEST ONE FOR THIS TASK. BERHANE ASSURED CHARGE USG WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE ACCESS TO ITS INSTALLATIONS AND THAT SECURITY WOULD BE PROVIDED WHEREVER EMBASSY REQUESTED AND IN FACT WAS ALREADY BEING PROVIDED TO USIS, NAMRU, MAAG, AND MAJOR U.S. CIVILIAN RESIDENTIAL AREA. CHARGE RAISED ASMARA-RELATED ISSUES OF: FLIGHT CLEARANCES, REMOVAL OF EQUIPMENT, PROVISION OF SECURITY TO PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY, AND EXTENSION OF FOUR-DAY DEADLINE. BERHANE TOLD CHARGE HE HAD INFORMED AUTHORITIES IN ASMARA AND THAT SECURITY BEING PROVIDED. HE SAID HE WOULD WORK ON OTHER PROBLEMS. CHARGE STRESSED URGENCY AND TOLD BERHANE THAT ACTING CONGEN HAD CONTACTED MOFA OFFICIALS IN ASMARA AND OFFICIALS UNAWARE OF INSTRUCTIONS. CHARGE RAISED OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS INCLUDING: NEED FOR DIRECT EPMG LIAISON OFFICER, CONTINUING ACCESS TO U.S. INSTALLATIONS, POSSIBILITY OF RETAINING THREE MAAG ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS, AND ONE TO TWO NAMRU ADMIN. OFFICERS, CUSTOMS WAIVER TO FACILITATE SHIPMENT OF PROPERTY, ASSURANCE THAT RESIDUAL ETHIOPIAN EMPLOYEES WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE WORKING AT U.S. INSTALLATIONS UNTIL ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS COMPLETED, AND CONTINUING EPMG CONCERN FOR SECURITY OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY. CHARGE ALSO REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME. END SUMMARY.

1. CHARGE WAS ABLE TO MEET WITH AMERICAN AFFAIRS DESK OFFICER, BERHANE DERESSE, MORNING APRIL 24. IN RESPONSE
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TO FORMAL USG REQUEST TO EXTEND FOUR-DAY DEADLINE, BERHANE STATED THAT MOFA HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM HIGH LEVELS OF EPMG THAT BROAD POLICY WOULD BE FOR AN ORDERLY WITHDRAWAL. BERHANE SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED PERMISSION TO INFORM US THAT QUOTE TIME WOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM. UNQUOTE. HE ASSURED CHARGE THAT EPMG PROVIDING SECURITY AT AFFECTED US INSTALLATIONS AND IN MAJOR US CIVILIAN RESIDENTIAL AREA. BERHANE SAID BROAD EPMG POLICY WAS TO ENSURE NO HARRASSMENT OF US CITIZENS.

2. CHARGE REQUESTED IMMEDIATE CLEARANCE FOR ADDITIONAL MAC FLIGHTS TO EVACUATE US PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY, UP TO AS MANY AS TWO PER DAY FOR NEXT THREE DAYS. BERHANE UNABLE TO GIVE ANY ASSURANCE ON THIS AND SUGGESTED MINDEF AYALEW PERHAPS BEST PERSON TO HANDLE CLEARANCES.

3. DESPITE DENIAL OF ACCESS TO USIS BUILDING TODAY BY EPMG ARMY SECURITY FORCE, BERHANE ASSURED CHARGE THAT USG

WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO ALL AFFECTED INSTALLATIONS AND THAT EPMG TROOPS WERE THERE TO PROVIDE SECURITY AND NOT TO DENY ACCESS. ALONG THESE LINES, CHARGE REQUESTED EPMG ASSURANCE THAT ETHIOPIAN EMPLOYEES BE GIVEN CONTINUED ACCESS TO U.S. INSTALLATIONS TO SAFEGUARD PROPERTY AND COMPLETE ORDERLY DISPOSITION OF CLOSURE. BERHANE SAID HE WOULD PURSUE THIS.

4. CONCERNING ASMARA, CHARGE REQUESTED IMMEDIATE CLEARANCE FOR MAC FLIGHTS INTO ASMARA TO EXPEDITE REMOVAL OF USG PROPERTY AND PERSONNEL. CHARGE ALSO REQUESTED SECURITY ASSISTANCE BE PROVIDED FOR PROTECTION OF AIRCRAFT. HE ALSO ASKED THAT FOUR-DAY DEADLINE BE EXTENDED, AND PROPER EPMG AUTHORITIES IN ASMARA BE INFORMED TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR US PERSONNEL THERE AND CONTINUING ACCESS TO US INSTALLATIONS. BERHANE SAID EPMG AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN INFORMED OF LATTER REQUESTS
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FOR SECURITY AND ACCESS AND THAT HE WOULD PURSUE FLIGHT CLEARANCES. HE TOLD CHARGE THAT PROBABLE EXTENSION OF FOUR-DAY DEADLINE APPLIED TO ASMARA AS WELL.

5. CHARGE EMPHASIZED NEED FOR LIAISON OFFICER EMPOWERED TO MAKE DECISIONS ON WITHDRAWAL DETAILS AND TO RESPOND TO EMBASSY INQUIRIES AUTHORITATIVELY. BERHANE TOLD CHARGE HE WOULD BE ACTING AS LIAISON OFFICER UNTIL MORNING APRIL 25 AT WHICH TIME HE WOULD TELEPHONE CHARGE NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF LIAISON OFFICER(S).

6. CHARGE REQUESTED THAT THREE MAAG AND ONE OR TWO NAMRU ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN AFTER DEPARTURE OF OTHER PERSONNEL TO COMPLETE ORDERLY DISPOSITION OF U.S. PROPERTIES. CHARGE ALSO REQUESTED ACTING CONGEN WAUCHOPE BE TRANSFERRED TO EMBASSY STAFF AND ALLOWED TO PERFORM SAME FUNCTION FOR ASMARA INSTALLATIONS FOR INDETERMINATE PERIOD OF TIME. BERHANE SAID HE WOULD PURSUE THESE REQUESTS.

7. CHARGE REQUESTED BERHANE'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING CUSTOMS WAIVER TO EXPEDITE REMOVAL OF U.S. PROPERTY. BERHANE SAID HE WOULD PURSUE THIS ALSO.

8. CHARGE REQUESTED MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME TO DISCUSS GENERAL SITUATION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE U.S.- ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS. CHARGE SAID HE ALSO SEEKING OFFICIAL EPMG EXPLANATION FOR EPMG'S ACTIONS. BERHANE TOLD CHARGE HE WOULD TRY TO ARRANGE MEETING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

9. CHARGE RE-EMPHASIZED URGENCY OF REQUESTS AND NEED FOR IMMEDIATE RESPONSES, ESPECIALLY REGARDING TIME EXTENSION, FLIGHT CLEARANCES, SECURITY OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, ACCESS TO INSTALLATIONS AND U.S. DESIRE FOR ORDERLY WITHDRAWAL. BERTHANE NOTED CHARGE'S REQUESTS AND TOLD HIM HE WOULD SEEK SECRET

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ANSWERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

10 COMMENT: BERTHANE ATTEMPTED TO REACH CONCERNED EPMG OFFICIALS BUT BECAUSE IT SUNDAY NO ONE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE. HE SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO TRY BUT EMBASSY DOES NOT EXPECT MUCH ACTION ON REQUESTS TODAY. TIENKEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CONSULATE CLOSING, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS, EVACUATION PLANS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Enclosure: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMARCHE TO EPMG ON CLOSING OF U.S. INSTALLATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, ET, US, USIA, MAAG, NUMRU, (BERHANE DERESSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/75e616a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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